



Parish Priest Message

United

We are

STRENGTHENED

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ Jesus,

There is a beautiful story called "Mouse Trap," which can inspire us for the theme above. A mouse looked through the crack in the wall to see the farmer and his wife open a package. What food might this contain? "The mouse wondered - he was devastated to discover it was a mousetrap. Retreating to the farmyard, the mouse proclaimed the warning: There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The chicken clucked and scratched, raised her head and said, "Mr. Mouse, I can tell this is a grave concern to you, but it is of no consequence to me. I cannot be bothered by it." The mouse turned to the goat and told him, "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The goat sympathized, but said, "I am so very sorry, Mr. Mouse, but there is nothing I can do about it but pray. Be assured you are in my prayers." The mouse turned to the cow and said "There is a mousetrap in the house! There is a mousetrap in the house!" The cow said, "Wow, Mr. Mouse. I'm sorry for you, but it's no skin off my nose." So, the mouse returned to the house, head down and dejected, to face the farmer's mousetrap alone. That very night a sound was heard throughout the house -- like the sound of a mousetrap catching its prey. The farmer's wife rushed to see what was caught. In the darkness, she did not see it was a venomous snake whose tail the trap had caught. The snake bit the farmer's wife. The farmer rushed her to the hospital and she returned home with a fever. Everyone knows you treat a fever with fresh chicken soup, so the farmer took his hatchet to the farmyard for the soup's main ingredient. But his wife's sickness

continued, so friends and neighbours came to sit with her around the clock. To feed them, the farmer butchered the goat. The farmer's wife did not get well; she died. So many people came for her funeral, the farmer had the cow slaughtered to provide enough meat for all of them. The mouse looked upon it all from his crack in the wall with great sadness.

The story above is not just to remember a non-vegetarian feast, it is a lesson to learn. So, the next time you hear someone is facing a problem and think it doesn't concern you, remember - when one of us is threatened, we are all at risk. It is same with this pandemic.

The example above confirms that each of us is a vital thread in another person's tapestry. We are all involved in this journey called life. We must keep an eye out for one another and make an extra effort to support, encourage and inspire one another.

We live in a family, community and society. All of us need others for life. And it all begins in the family. What is valuable in families is that they are normal people struggling to do good and be good, strengthening themselves by listening to each other, paying attention to other families, and encouraging each other to be fair, honest, and kind. When the heart is opened with love, it can only ever call for sharing. The heart will never go against goodness, only the contents of the mind can engage in such a struggle for rectifying the inequality and cruelty of our societies.

In such a society, in order to promote unity:

(1) **we are invited to Encourage Each Other** as St. Paul tells us, "*that there may be no division in the body, but that the members may have the same care for one another. If one member suffers, all suffer together; if one member is honoured, all rejoice together.*" (1 Cor. 12:25-26)



The negativity surrounding us can be disheartening. Therefore St. Paul tells us again, "*Let no corrupting talk come out of your mouths, but only such as is good for building up, as fits the occasion, that it may give grace to those who hear.*" (Eph. 4:29)

(2) **As Followers of Christ, unity is brought about by Prayer** as St. James tells us, "*Therefore, confess your sins to one another and pray for one another, that you may be*

healed. The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working." (James 5:16).

Prayer is one of the greatest tools God gave us both for talking to the Father and for interceding for one another. If we aren't praying as much as we are complaining or gossiping, then we are contributing to a larger problem. We are told throughout the Bible to pray for everyone - our fellow Christians, our leaders and even our enemies. In a divided world, we need to pray for the healing of what's broken, whether personally or as a nation.

(3) **As Christians let us Remember Whom We Represent** as St. Peter tells us, *"For you have been called for this purpose, since Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example for you to follow in His steps..."* (1 Pet. 2:21). We are called to be imitators of Christ. We are children of God, so we should love everyone in the way that Jesus has modelled for us.

Christ treated everyone with equal love, compassion and understanding. Even in His dying breath, Jesus asked God to forgive the very people, who were crucifying him, saying, *"Father, forgive them, for they know not what they do."* (Lk 23:24)

When one is hurt, or sick or in difficulty, let us empathize and remember to pray for one another. When someone is happy and joyful for any reason, let us appreciate, encourage and celebrate with one another.

I conclude with another good inspiring advice from St. Paul, who reminds us not to grow weary of doing good. *"And let us not grow weary of doing good, for in due season we will reap, if we do not give up. So then, as we have opportunity, let us do good to everyone, and especially to those who are of the household of faith."* (Gal. 6:9-10)

Wishing you all good, well-being and God's blessings,

Fr. Maxim Cardoza, OFM. Cap
Parish Priest

Church Events

- Sep 2 : Baptism Seminar (Zoom)
- Sep 5 : St. Theresa of Culcutta
- Sep 8 : Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
- Sep 10 : Monti Feast
- Sep 14 : Exaltation of the Holy Cross
- Sep 15 : Our Lady of Sorrows
- Sep 21 : St. Matthew, Apostle and Evangelist
- Sep 23 : St. Padre Pio
- Sep 29 : St. Michael, Raphael and Gabriel, Archangels

We invite your Spiritual Messages, Testimonies, Articles & Special Activity Photos of Prayer Groups & Communities Please Contact Editorial Team, Parish Office OR Email : voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

CATECHISM of the CATHOLIC CHURCH

Catechism is a text which contains the fundamental Christian truths in an organized fashion and presented to the faithful and the world by the universal church. The Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) originated with a recommendation made at the Extraordinary Synod of Bishops in 1985. In the year 1992, Pope John Paul II officially approved the definitive version of the Catechism and promulgated it with an apostolic constitution.

The purpose of the catechism is to initiate the hearers / readers into the fullness of Christian life. It is the totality of the Church's efforts to make disciples, to help men believe that Jesus is the Son of God so that believing they might have life in his name, and to educate and instruct them in this life, thus building up the body of Christ. (CCC: Para 4). The structure of the catechism is built on four pillars as listed below:

Part One, The Profession of Faith: The profession of faith summarizes the gifts that God gives man: as the Author of all that is good; as Redeemer; and as Sanctifier.

Part Two, The Sacraments of Faith: The second part explains how God's salvation, accomplished once for all through Christ Jesus and the Holy Spirit, is made present in the sacred actions of the Church's liturgy, especially in the seven sacraments.

Part Three, The Life of Faith: This deals with the end of man, created in the image of God: beatitude, and the ways of reaching it - through right conduct freely chosen, with the help of God's law and grace and through conduct that fulfils the twofold commandment of charity, specified in God's Ten Commandments.

Part Four, Prayer in the Life of Faith: The last part of the Catechism deals with the meaning and importance of prayer in the life of believers.



In Chapter 8 of Acts of the Apostles, we read of an Ethiopian returning from his pilgrimage to Jerusalem. Sitting in his chariot, he was reading from the book of prophet Isaiah. The Holy Spirit said to Philip, 'Go up and join that chariot'. When Philip ran up, he heard him reading portions of Isaiah and asked, 'Do you understand what you are reading?'. The Ethiopian replied, 'How could I, unless I have someone to guide me?'. So he urged Philip to get in and sit by his side. Philip proceeded to explain Jesus to him from the very scriptures he had been reading.

This is what the Catechism of the Catholic Church (CCC) does - explaining the treasures of the Holy Scriptures. The Prologue of CCC captures the essence and goes with these 3 verses,

John 17:3 Father,... this is eternal life, that they may know you, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom you have sent.

1 Tim 2: 3-4 God our Saviour desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth.


Acts 4:12 There is no other name under heaven given among men by which we must be saved - than the name of JESUS.

It is important that we read the Holy Bible along with CCC so that we can truly understand the Triune God through the mystical body of Christ, the Church.

Vijayan . A

Do you Know . . .

01 October
St Thérèse of the Child Jesus
Memorial



St Thérèse Martin (1873 - 1897) was born in Alençon and, aged fifteen, entered the Carmelite of Lisieux, thus joining two of her sisters. Although she died of tuberculosis at the age of twenty four, such was the influence of her spiritual writings and her 'little way' that she was declared a Doctor of the Church by St Pope John Paul II in 1997. She is also Patron of the Missions and Co-Protectress of France (with St Joan of Arc).

BIBLE QUIZ SEPTEMBER 2021

1. Who are the religious leaders who continually tried to trap Jesus with their questions?
2. Who went on missionary journeys to preach to the Gentiles?
3. What was Jesus' first miracle?
4. What is John the baptizer's father's name?
5. Which wood has been used by Noah to build the ark?

Your answers along with your name, age and contact details shall be submitted at the parish office on or before 1st October 2021.

OR Email: voiceofstpauls@gmail.com

Bible Quiz Winners August-2021

1. Deron Lawrence - Grade 8
2. Tesia Lawrence - Grade 6



Photo Corner



Silver Jubilee Celebration of Priestly Ordination of Fr. Nidal Abou Rjaily OFM Cap & Fr. Elie El Hachem OFM Cap. (10-August)

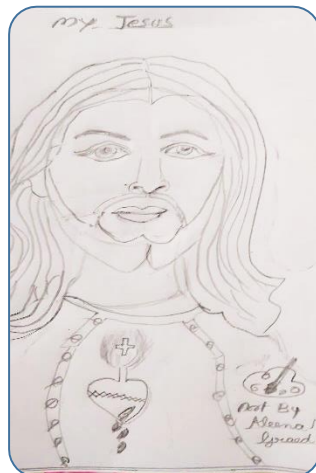


Fr. Varghese Birthday (30-August)

KID'S CORNER



Art by Albin Martin
Grade 5



Art by Aleena Martin
Grade 1